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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

Professor J. Lederberg, Executive

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Dear Seymour -

Thanks for the suggestion.

About your further remark, I thought I had already commented directly on your essay. The present scribbling was careless, and I had no intention of drawing the extrapolations you correctly criticize. What I have in mind is the interest in an orderly picture of the universe that can see the importance of studying cosmic life the better to understand our own. There is of course an evolutionary convergence in the origin of the solar system — but it is mainly because we know better how to look for DNA rather than the expectation that Mars genes contain it that I would put any weight on so narrow a search.

I am writing some of this up more extensively. But we ought to chat about it at leisure; letters are fairly clumsy ~~to~~ as a means to go over cosmic problems.

Yours
Jahner.